

From: Gary Gordhamer
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 10:09am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern,

I would like to express my dis-satisfaction with the current proposed settlement between the DOJ and Microsoft. I have been working in the information technology area for over 10 years now, and have seen the Windows platform grow from a limited use simple operating system, to a monopolistic control of the desktop and mid-range server market.

Their growth has been through the use of legal and illegal business practices as shown by the verdict the recent and distant court cases.

The current proposed settlement does not seem to offer any form of monopolistic control as it would seem is required.

I tend to compare this to the monopoly of the phone system. When the "baby" bells were born, the only way they could compete was by strict adherence to standards set by the government (FCC), and strict fines for not following these standards.

This allows me to choose from many different phone options, and phone hardware which I can purchase at many stores from many vendors. Yet when I choose to purchase a computer, or computer operating system there tends to be only one option available. With fixed price, fixed features and limited compatible options.

The current settlement proposal does not offer an open fixed standard that is controlled external to Microsoft. It does not put into place a way to infuse the market with competing companies that will be able to deliver products to the supply chain as Microsoft can.

I would hope that one day I can visit my

local Wall-Mart store and see a set of competing products on the shelf, offering various options and price points. Untill then I must still lease my computer from Microsoft and get only what they allow, much like the phones of the 1970's that I leased from AT&T.

Respectfully,

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